



# Terrorism Program

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## Emergency Management Division Washington Military Department

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### Background

Since September 11, 2001, the preparation for the defense against terrorism has increased in tempo. Washington State responders must be prepared to meet the challenges of a major terrorist incident. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has defined terrorism as "the unlawful use of force or violence against persons or property to intimidate or coerce a government, the civilian population, or any segment of it, in furtherance of political or social objectives". The Sarin gas attack in the Tokyo subway and the destruction of the Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City are other vivid examples of terrorist attacks.

### Overview

The Emergency Management Division (EMD) recognizes the threat that terrorism presents and ongoing actions are in progress to prepare local and state agency responders for the potential terrorism challenge. The Committee on Terrorism (COT), a subcommittee of the Emergency Management Council, developed a comprehensive strategy to enhance preparedness and response to terrorist incidents. This strategy encompasses the planning, training, exercising and equipping of responders and emergency managers to meet this demanding challenge.

### Planning

As a community identifies potential vulnerable sites, planners, responders and public officials can use the Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning Guide to coordinate appropriate planning measures, analysis, and Standard Operating Procedures.

### Training and Exercises

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Department of Justice (DOJ) have provided assistance to the State for responder training. DOJ provides both resident and on-site training for local jurisdiction responders. EMD has sponsored and provided training for local responders over the last five years utilizing a series of FEMA grants. This training focuses on the characteristics, response, and incident command issues involved in a Weapons of Mass Destruction incident. Other assistance provided to local jurisdictions includes training publications, videos, and other information regarding terrorism.

### Contact

For additional information about the anti-terrorism program contact:

- Dan Staber, Program Manager; (253) 512-7068; [d.staber@emd.wa.gov](mailto:d.staber@emd.wa.gov)
- Michelle Sabin, Program Assistant; (253) 512-7468; [m.sabin@emd.wa.gov](mailto:m.sabin@emd.wa.gov)
- Dave Hodgeboom, HAZMAT Training and Exercise Coordinator, (253) 512-7051; [hodgeboom@emd.wa.gov](mailto:hodgeboom@emd.wa.gov)
- Bob Isaman, Terrorism and HAZMAT Plan Coordinator; (253) 512-7054; [r.isaman@emd.wa.gov](mailto:r.isaman@emd.wa.gov)